

Nancy Johnson



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Johnson Helps Win Grant for Cheshire Firefighters

Federal Grant Improves Firefighter Communication and Safety

CHESHIRE, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today announced the Cheshire Volunteer Fire Department will receive \$266,798 in federal funds to upgrade its communication system and purchase new, modern radio equipment.

“This grant will greatly boost Cheshire’s emergency communication system, giving firefighters better tools to more safely protect the community,” Johnson said. “I fight hard for these grant programs because our firefighters need and deserve the best resources to do their jobs.”

Cheshire Fire Chief Jack Casner said the \$266,798 in federal funds will be used to upgrade the town’s emergency communications infrastructure and purchase approximately 50 new portable radios for individual firefighters. Casner said the current system is 12 years old and based on out-dated technology.

“I’d like to thank Congresswoman Johnson for supporting this grant and the FIRE Act,” Casner said. “We would not have been able to improve our capabilities without the assistance of this grant.”

Not only will the upgrade improve communication within the town, Casner said “it will increase our capability to effectively communicate with surrounding towns and departments.” This all translates into better firefighting capability and improved safety for firefighters at emergency scenes, he said.

The grant was made through the Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety Program, which funds training, wellness and fitness, firefighting equipment, personal protective equipment, and modifications to fire stations and facilities. It is one of four categories of FIRE grants, all funded through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The other three grant programs are the Fire Prevention Program, the Emergency Medical Services Program, and the Firefighting Vehicles Acquisition Program.

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